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God's Family On Earth

Wyatt Sawyer

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HARDING
UNIVERSITY

20 min.

GOD'S FAMILY ON EARTH

INT:

God has ONE spiritual family: / part in Heaven and part on Earth. (Matt. 6:10. 16:19. 18:18. *Eph. 3:14-17. (Eph. 1:8-11)).

TODAY'S LESSON: God's Spr. Family on Earth !!

4 points in rhyme:

How it Started. What it Knew.

See its Spirit. How it Grew!

Premise: The congregation that STARTS right, KNOWS what's right, HAS the right Spirit, WILL grow!!! PROOF: Acts 2:36-47.:

I. HOW IT STARTED. V. 36-39.

1. Began with SINNERS. V. 36. *Murderers!*
Ill. Move to small town. Plan to start a C.of C. 1st move? Find some sinners!!!
 All there was!!! Rom. 3:23. 6:23.

Quote: "The church is not made of people who believe they are better than others, but those who realize they SHOULD BE better than THEY ARE!!!" Need improvement!

2. Started with SINCERE sinners. V. 37.
 "PRICKED": cut, crushed, stunned, moved or conscience-stricken, *deeply troubled* because of their SINS!!! (best!)

Quote: "The church is not made of people who never make mistakes, but rather those when they SEE their mistakes, acknowledge them and FORSAKE them."

3. Started with OBEDIENT sinners. V. 38-41.

3,000 believed enough to be Born Again!
 Only 3,000 believers added! Obeyed! v.38!

Question: "Have to belong to the church to be saved??" Cart before the horse!!!

ARE SAVED.... then added to the church. V.47.

ANSWER: Those who want to PLEASE GOD, who want to DO right, who want to go to Heaven.....

will: WANT TO BE children of God! WANT TO BE IN His family. Conc: Those IN God's family are in the church!!!

II. WHAT IT KNEW. V. 40-45. Key verse: V. 40.

1. Plan of Sal. V. 38. Repent & be Baptized.
2. Plan of Worship. V. 42. Assembly! Regularity! Bible study. Giving. Communion. Prayer.

KNEW going into LORD'S CHURCH....not some denomination---which is WHY a person cannot today transfer from a denomination into C of C. Must OBEY the TRUTH !!! *early day*

SIMPLE ANSWER: Knew enough to come into God's ONE, TRUE, FAMILY!!! Matt. 15:13.

III. SEE ITS SPIRIT: V. 46.

KJ: Gladness and singleness. 50% ambiguous!!!

New KJ: Gladness and simplicity. Still 50% ambiguous.

Others: "one accord"---Unity of spirit.

"One mind." All thinking TOGETHER !!!!!

Quote: "The church is not made up of PERFECT people, but people who BELIEVE they ARE following a Perfect LORD, and a Perfect LAW, and a Mature & complete PLAN for their lives!!!"

IV. HOW IT GREW: V. 47.

1. Daily growth: Why???

a. Praising God daily! Blessed daily! M 6:33

b. Impressed the PEOPLE daily! Prospects for the Better-Life everywhere. M. 5:16.

c. HOW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS???????

New Christians were TELLING it everywhere! (Housetops, marketplace, pools, gates, homes, fields, around tables at meals..

INV: If you HAD to boil all this down to ONE element which made the early church grow, what would that ONE element be??? Ans: They were DEFINITE!

Believed!
Committed!
Converted!
DEFINITE about the Lord's Plan of Sal. Obeyed.
DEFINITE about the Lord's Plan of Wor. Obeyed.
DEFINITE about the Lord's Plan for their lives: Missionarys for Jesus - daily.
DEFINITE about what THEY wanted out of life!!!!

YOU????? Definitely TIRED of Sin? / Tired of Fear? / Tired of Dread of Doom? / Tired of uncertainty!

THEN, PLEASE LISTEN...as Jesus Tenderly Calls you Home! *Let's stand + sing!*